

LIFE TRAVEL

See the stars in Utah this spring



● **THOSE** heading for Israel at Pesach and wondering how to keep in touch with family and friends without incurring huge roaming charges or vast bills when using a hotel phone, may wish to investigate Talk'n'Save. Their mobile phone rental service will deliver a phone to await your arrival, and a special Pesach package has free rental, free setup, and free incoming calls. Rates 15p for Israel mobiles; 22p to other Israel numbers; 27p to UK landlines and 33p to UK mobiles. For regular visitors, they also offer a "Phone for Life" option (www.talknsave.net)

● **IF** you are heading to the Irish capital this spring, Dublin's smart Merrion Hotel has a new Art Tea, a witty, comestible interpretation of the contemporary Irish art in the National Gallery of Ireland across the road. The Merrion's pastry chefs have created a delicious collection of pastries inspired by the art and served with all the other components of afternoon tea, at €35 (£32) (www.merrionhotel.com)

● **FOR** visitors to London – or Londoners who want to learn more about their city – the newly

refurbished London Bridge Hotel is offering a tour of Borough Market, winner of a London's Best Market award. The Borough Market Gastro-tour with food writer and TV chef, Celia Brooks Brown costs £70 and takes place every Friday morning. It includes wine tasting, tapas at Brindisa and a sampling session at a restaurant. B&B rates at the London Bridge Hotel from £119 per room per night (www.londonbridgehotel.com; 020 7855 2200)

● **HOLIDAY** firm Healthy Options, which offers restorative breaks on the Greek Island of Lefkas, is offering new options for guests booking holidays this summer. Guests may try out as many of the activities as they wish, including yoga, aerobics, body conditioning, aqua aerobics and Pilates classes. There is also nutrition advice, cycling tours and therapeutic massages. One week, based in a beachfront hotel, costs from £499 per person (based on two sharing) and includes flights, transfers, accommodation and the healthy options programme (0844 499 2909; www.healthy-options.co.uk)

● **THOMSON** Tailormade is offering huge savings on an eight-night trip to Canada's fabulous and scenic west coast. Departing on May 20, the Whales, Bears and Vancouver Island tour takes in the lively, bustling city of Vancouver, as well as the beautiful Vancouver Island, and costs from £1,549 per person (based on two sharing). The price includes flights, accommodation and car hire (www.thomsontailormade.com; 0871 664 0273)



● **FURTHER** east, the elegant Canadian city of Montreal (above) is holding a year-long "City of Glass" celebration, featuring exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations that focus on the use of glass in art, architecture, history and science. Highlights include a Louis C Tiffany exhibition at the Museum of Fine Arts, stained glass window demonstrations and a "Glass and the Solar house" exhibition at the Biosphere. Other glass-themed events and activities, include a fashion show featuring a renowned Montréal design duo. (www.villedeverre.com)

● **STARGAZERS** should head to Utah, where the clear skies above the Natural Bridges National Park (itself a wonder of sandstone canyons, strange rock formations and a dramatic natural bridge) have led to its designation as the first "International Dark Sky Park". US specialist, Bon Voyage is offering a seven-night fly-drive in Utah from £745 per person (based on two sharing), which includes flights, car hire and two nights' accommodation near the Dark Sky Park (0800 316 0194; www.bon-voyage.co.uk)

